



COLORADO SPRINGS,
COLORADO

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August 1995



Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, Inc.
P. O. Box 16521
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80935

FIRST CLASS MAIL



Ø BEAT



P.P.R.A.A Officers and Directors

President--	Steve Westby	WB7VHR	1640 Keith Drive	80916	570-1070
Vice-President--	Rick Brown	KD8SU	3248 Squaw Valley Drive	80918	531-8423
Secretary--	Warren Hickey	W8TNE	12886 Tia Lane	80908	496-0471
Treasurer--	Ellen Decker	NK8P	4306 Ridgeland Drive	80918	593-8352
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Board Member--	Jeff Ryan	NØWPA	8721 Northface Lane	80919	260-6826
Board Member--	Harry Russell	NØSFP	11710 Tracy Lane, Peyton	80831	719-3344
Board Member--	Jill Kamlenki	AAØTH	P.O. Box 6680, Woodland Pk	80866	687-6964
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Ø-Beat Editor--	Jeff Boyes	NØJLH	2626 E. Bijou	80908	531-8423

ZERO BEAT is published monthly in the interest of the members of the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, Inc., PO Box 16521, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80935. For membership and subscription information see last page of this publication. The Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association meets monthly on the second Wednesday of each month at the Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 26, 6880 Palmer Park Blvd. at 7PM.

Deadline for submission of articles or ads is the 20th of each month. Submissions may be sent to the Editor or to the club PO box. Permission to reprint articles is granted provided credit is given to both the author and this publication.

ADVERTISING RATES: Full page \$48, half page \$24, quarter page \$12; business card \$6. These are monthly rates and are billed quarterly. Send your ad requests and payments to: PPRAA, PO Box 16521, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80935.

Committee Chairpersons, etc.

Publicity	Al Craig	594-9288
Membership	Les Borst	634-3995
Education	Al Bailey	597-8514
VE Testing	Erik Mugele	596-5345
Interference	Bill Petty	591-2116
RACES	Bryan Curl	390-5524
ARES	Mike Stansberry	636-1290
Skywarn	Steve Westby	570-1070
Public Service	Mike Stansberry	636-1290
CCARC	Cory Nelson	
Club Trailer	Harry Russell	749-0244
Ø-Beat	Renay & Jeff Boyes	633-5650
Club Historian	Al Craig	594-9288
Falcon Wanderers	Bob Nyman	574-5161
Programs	John Martin	531-6369
Swapfest	Harvey Hunter	597-8964
Finance	open	



Radio Exams

Radio Examinations are sponsored by the PPRAA on the 2nd Saturday of February, April, June, August, October, and December. Testing takes place at 9:00 AM at:

Denver Technical College(DTC)
225 South Union
Colorado Springs

Everyone is treated on a walk-in basis. Those wishing to take an examination should bring the following item.

1. \$5.90 (preferably a check or money order made out to ARRL/VEC) for any exam other than element 1A or 2.
2. Picture identification.
3. A copy of your current amateur license as well as the signed original. A copy of any examination credit you have, as well as the original. **We keep the copies.**
4. A pen, pencils, and a calculator if you need one.

If you have any further questions please call **Erik Mugele, N6XYX at 596-5345**. Please do not call DTC, they only provide us the rooms for testing, and they do not have any further information concerning the testing.

Reminder - August Meeting

The next meeting of the PPRAA will be held on Wednesday, August 9th at the Disabled American Veterans Hall located at 6880 Palmer Park Blvd. The meeting starts at 7:00 PM. The program will be presented by The Cayman Island DXing Group.



Dits and Bits

For Sale:

Brother Laser Printer Model HL-630. Never out of original box. Bargain while it lasts. \$300.00. Frank, NOIEM 596-7980.

For Sale:

Tubes, 811A \$14, 807 \$7, 2E24 \$5, many other types below list price. Call me for my list!

Portable Computer: HP 110 with two diskette drives, printer, manuals, cases, asking \$100.

Travel clock radio: Realistic 12-826, digital, asking \$15.

Tape eraser: GC electronics 30-140, asking \$10.

Scanner: Bearcat BC 100XLT, handheld, 16 channel programmable, asking \$55.

Stereo: Nikko NR-550 digital receiver with two Sony bookshelf speakers, asking \$50.

Workbench: Cleaned off another one. FREE.

Camera: Nikon N2000 self wind, automatic with Tokina 28-70 mm zoom lens, with case and instructions, asking \$190.

Stereo: Proton 930 digital receiver with two Infinity Qa speakers, asking \$275.

Outdoor phone bell: Realistic 43-177, asking \$10.

Autosound slide brackets; for your "pull-out mobile." Asking \$2 ea.

Antenna wire or hook-up wire: Royal electric switchboard wire, #14 7-strand tinned type SIS gray insulation, 500 ft. Asking \$10

Call Steve KOCI 598-3554.

For Sale:

Larsen KD14-2M-HW 2M Telescoping Gain Ant. New 32.50 Sell 21.00

MFJ-1730 Roll-up J-Pole New 14.95 Sell 10.00

Valor MM270B 2M/440 Micro-mag mt. Ant. New 56.60 Sell 33.00

Larsen NMO-CAP Rain Cap New 3.25 Sell 2.00

Larsen NMO-K used Perm 3.4" hole mt for NMO New 13.00 Sell 7.00

Larsen NMO-TLM trunk mount New 25.95 Sell 17.00

Larsen NMO-150-CO 2M 5.8 coil only New 29.95 Sell 17.00

MFJ-1702N 2 position ant. Switch (N) New 31.00 Sell 21.00

Uniden Bearcat 100XL 16 channel scanner New 169.00 Sell 95.00

Contact WBOMHP 598-1441

For Sale:

1296 MHz 55 element beam antenna:

Tonna F9-FT. Will deliver in local area. \$65.00

Radio Shack DSP signal processor. Like new. \$55.00

Call Ron NK0P 593-8352

From The Editor

I would like to thank everyone for their support and patience. Jeff and I will try our best to publish a newsletter of the same quality you have come to expect. We have a few ideas that we will be trying in the months to come and we would appreciate any opinions you have. If you have any ideas please feel free to contact us, as always we welcome any article from you. You can submit any articles either at the meeting or by mail; 2626 East Bijou Street; Colorado Springs, CO 80909. Thank you again.

Renay and Jeff Boyes



OM/YL LUNCH BUNCH

Remember there is no August Meeting!
See you at the Club Picnic!

73's
Rosie Calaway, WA0MNL
471-9965



NEEDED

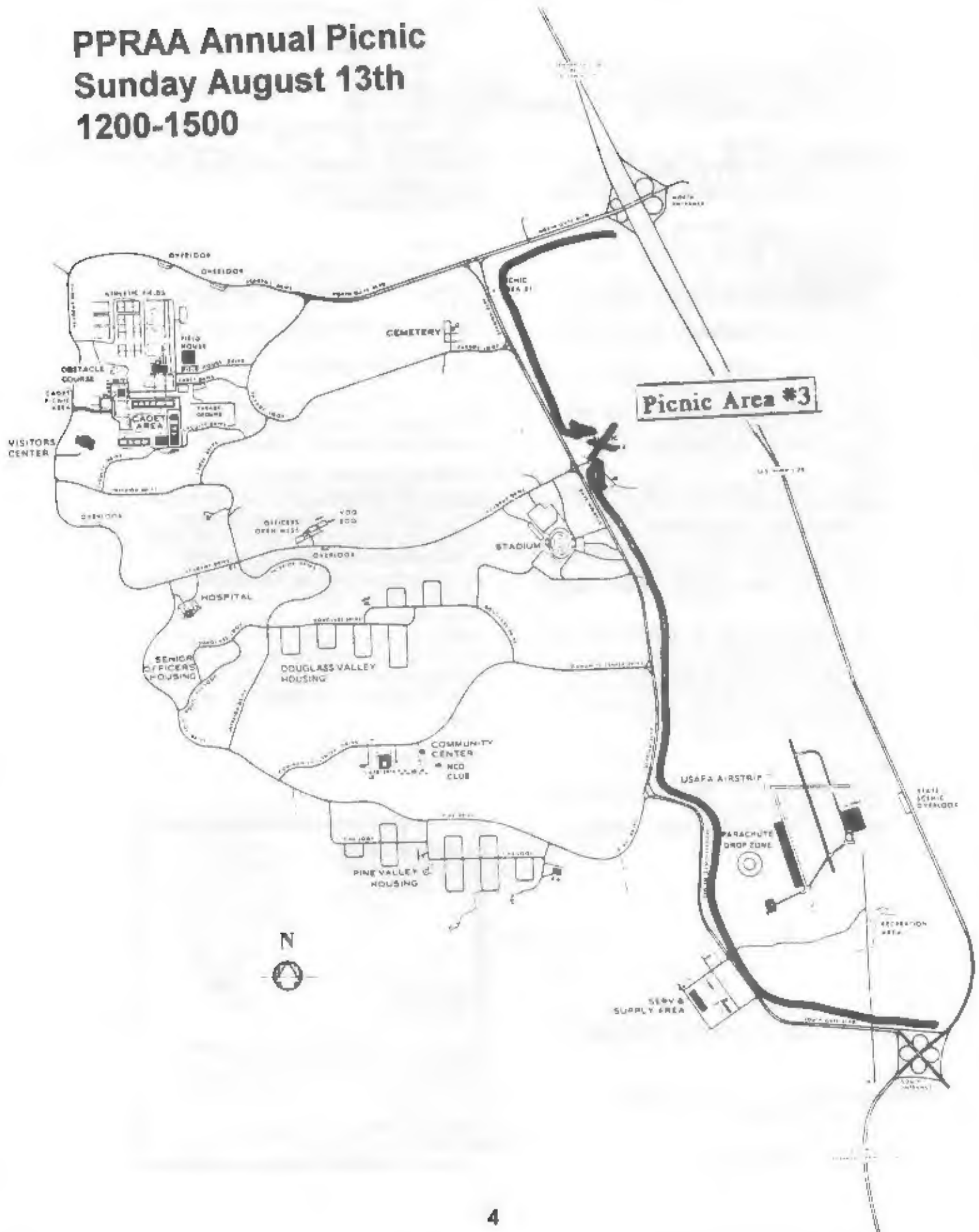
Volunteers to help with communications over the Labor Day Weekend.
Low (No) pay, Long hours, HT required.
Lots of fun!!!

Colorado Balloon Festival
Contact Cory, KB0NMH

PPRAA Annual Picnic

Sunday August 13th

1200-1500



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

July 12, 1995

The general membership meeting was opened at 7:00 p.m. by the President Steve Westby, WB7VHR, upon determining a quorum of the membership was present. Members and guests introduced themselves. Several newly licensed amateurs were present. The treasurer's report was given by Ron, NK0P. Income this month was \$1818.39 with expenses of \$1521.71 leaving a balance of \$4180.04. A motion was made and seconded to accept Ron's report. The minutes of the May 17, 1995 general membership meeting, as published in the 0-Beat, were approved as written.

Committee Reports:

R.A.C.E.S.: No report.

A.R.E.S. Liaison: The members were reminded that the A.R.E.S. HF nets are held on 3928 Khz on Sunday morning, 8:30 local time and VHF Nets are on Tuesday night on the 146.97 repeater.

Public Service: Jeff, N0WPA briefed on the Highland Games to be held on Saturday at the Rockledge Ranch.

VEC Testing: Erick KG0XC, reported 12 out of 22 people were successful at the regular testing session.

Skywarn: Steve announced that Skywarn has been busy with the recent storms. A new paging capability using the .97 repeater is now under test.

Interference: Bill, N0NJX, reported on an interference problem in Security that was successfully corrected. The committee is working on a second problem that is more challenging. Bill thanked the members for their support.

0-BEAT Editor: Renay, KA0ROY, reminded everyone that the cutoff date for the next 0-Beat is July 20. If anyone has articles for the 0-Beat please get them to Renay or Jeff.

Programs: Steve announced that next months' program will a guest speaker who will talk about DXing in the Cayman Islands. The program for tonight will be provided by the Edge of Space DFing group.

CARC: No report.

Picnic: Steve reminded the membership of the PPRAA Picnic on 13 Aug 95 at the AFA

Picnic Area #3. Starting time is 1200. There will be a tailgate swapfest in the parking lot. Bring a covered dish to share. Burgers and such will be provided.

Old Business: There was no old business presented.

New Business: As a result of John, N0URR, leaving the area, an election of a member to serve out the remaining vice-president and defacto Programs chairman term was held. Rick Brown was elected by the general membership. Congratulations Rick.

Harry, N0SFP, inquired how the membership would feel about an Activities Night, where club members would share ideas and information in small groups about particular hobby interest. Everyone was asked to think about areas they would be interested in and then contact one of the board members.

Hammy Award: The Hammy award was presented to Warren, W0YNE, by Doc, W0MCT. Congratulations Warren.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Warren, W0YNE, Secretary

PPRAA Board Meeting

July 17, 1995

The Board meeting was opened at 1900 hrs by the president, Steve Westby, at the home of Ora Rose, N0QJX. Members present were Steve, WB7VHR; Jeff, N0WPA; Warren, W0YNE; Harry, N0SFP; Ora, N0QJX; Rick, KD0SO; Jill, AA0TH; Renay, KA0ROY; Jeff, N0JLH.

The minutes of the Jun 19 meeting were approved.

Committee Reports:

Picnic: The picnic is scheduled for 13 Aug at AFA Picnic Ground #3. We are getting closer and we still need a few more volunteers.

ZERO BEAT: Renay, KA0ROY, reminded everyone that inputs to the ZERO BEAT are due 20 Jul.

Programs: Next months' program will be a presentation on DXing in the Cayman Islands. September program will be an activities night. The group discussed subjects that could be used for an activities night.

Erick, KG0XE, will be starting amateur classes in the near future. He asked if the club would be interested in working with him? No decisions were made.

Next Board meeting will be held at the picnic on Saturday, Aug 13 at 1200 hrs.

Respectfully submitted by Warren, W0YNE, Secretary.

PPRAA

August 1995

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																										
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After the Race.....

I'd like to take the opportunity to thank all amateurs that participated in the Pikes Peak Auto Hill Climb this year. As expected, we have again demonstrated our abilities to adapt to any situation. Even with all amateurs in place on time, the almost unexpected movement of the finish line to Devil's Playground presented no significant problems for any amateur on the mountain. Thanks to all for the professional level of communications provided for the event. Thanks to Ken Phillips, N0NKP, for assembling the information packet. Thanks also to the Mountain Amateur Radio Club for standing by with the backup repeater system in Woodland Park. Fortunately it was not needed but it was nice to know it was there. The communications director for the Hill Climb (Tom Frazer, WA0QQT) appreciated our efforts very much.

I received a letter from the Pikes Peak Auto Hill Climb Educational Museum announcing a Thank You Party for all volunteers. The party will be held on September 16th from 1100 to 1500 at Soda Springs Park in Manitou Springs. All volunteers should have received a letter by now but if not, just bring your credentials and come have a party.

Now if space permits, here is a list of participants in suffix order:

N0CMK, KF0CT, WB0DUM, N0EOP,
KD6FML, N0FVF, KC5FWV, N0IKF,
K2LCT, N0LHC, KB0LWE, KB4MLW,
KB0MMR, N0NJX, N0NKP, KB0NMH,
KD0NT, N0NTX, WA2OOD, N0OUD,
N0PKB, KB0RKW, KB0RLJ, KB0RLJ,
W6RML, KG0RN, WL7RV, N0SFP,
KB0SHM, KB0SLG, WA4SVJ, KB0SWR,
KB0SXC, N0TDS, K0TER, N0UEM,
N0UVT, N0VAN, KG0VY, N0WPA, N0XIB,
NW4Y, N0YQJ, N0ZFX, KA8ZKR, N0ZLZ,
N0ZPY, N0ZUQ, NH6ZW.

(I don't believe I missed anyone but if I did please let me know.)
WB7WHT Robert A. "Rob" Roller

PPRAA Annual Library Exhibit

Once again this fall we will be "putting on a show" at the library to introduce the public to Amateur Radio!

When: Saturday 09 September 1995
Outdoor setup begins around 0700
Indoor setup begins around 0830
Exhibit is open to the public 1000-1600 local time.

Where: East Library and Information Center
5550 North Union Blvd.,
Colorado Springs

Who: You!
Your organizer for this event needs your help.

We plan to have several stations set up as we did last year, so our visitors can witness us making contacts. Remember the DX we worked last year?

Also on the agenda are displays from the various volunteer organizations and scientific interests.

We've had good results in the past, and would like to continue... like the Boy Scouts who visited us last year.

Please put this event on you calendar.
I'll be in touch!

Steve Schaarschmidt K0CI
598-3554
(Please pitch in on this!)



QSL On Your QTH

by Bob Witte KB0CY

It was a lovely Saturday morning and I was in my favorite horizontal position on the sofa pondering whether to put up that new 17 meter beam or to finish painting the house. Of course, I knew the right answer but the wife would prefer to have the house painted. My thoughts were interrupted when I noticed The Technician walking towards my front door. It was my newly licensed neighbor, probably wanting to borrow my SWR meter again. I hope that this time he doesn't use it to measure the power line voltage.

The doorbell rang. I was slow to get up and it rang again. The Technician hollared through the window "Cue Tee Aych?". I said "What?" and he repeated "Cue Tee Aych?". "What the heck are you saying?", I asked the Technician. He said, "You know... QTH? What is your location? I knew you were home and was simply inquiring as to your location using the standard Q signal."

"Oh, yeah, QTH, sure, the Q signal," I replied, wondering where this discussion was going to lead.

"Yeah, now that I'm on the air and using the local repeaters I want to make sure I know all the right lingo," The Technician continued. "I'm having a little trouble with QTR... I'm not exactly sure how to use that one."

"Um, uh, QTR, let's see... that means, uh.... I guess I don't remember that one." I could see his confidence in me rapidly dissipating.

"Elmer, I can't believe a serious radio amateur like you doesn't know all the Q codes," said The Technician.

"Well, I guess I am a little rusty on them...", I mumbled.

"QSL on the rust, Elmer. I just want to get these Q signals down so I can use them on the air. I mean you gotta sound like a real ham on the repeater, right? Otherwise, they'll think I'm some new licensee that doesn't know how to operate my radio, I mean, my rig," The

Technician explained. The fog started to lift from my head as the real problem emerged.

"Oh, so that's what this is all about — sounding cool on the repeater." I said.

"Well, I guess I wouldn't have put it quite that way... I'd say I want to fit in with the other guys and not be viewed as a poor operator."

"You mean you don't want to be a Lid", I said. "That's the derogatory term applied to radio amateurs that have poor operating practices. Let me guess... you've heard other people on the repeater using various amateur radio jargon so you've assumed it's the mark of a good operator. I know some of those ops aren't happy if they can't get at least two 'rogers', three 'QSLs' and a couple of 'QTHs' in on every transmission. That stuff can really get out of hand."

"You mean I don't need to use all that stuff? I seem to recall that the Q signals and that Alpha, Bravo, Charlie stuff was even on the FCC exam."

"The Q signals are a good shorthand notation for CW work so the FCC requires you to know the most common ones. We'll come back to that Alpha Bravo Charlie stuff in a minute. It's not that there's anything wrong with all this jargon, lingo, Q signals and so forth. Every hobby or profession has its unique terminology. It's just that for day-to-day contacts on the local repeater or simplex plain old English works just fine. If you want to be a looked upon as a high quality amateur radio operator, keeping things simple and to the point will help." I realized I was starting my good operating practice sermon. I hate when that happens. I always end up sounding like some straight-laced old guy that's picking on the newcomers to the hobby. I'm gonna have to learn to lighten up, but it's tough being an Elmer. "It's funny, sometimes people try so hard to NOT sound like a new ham, that they accomplish the exact opposite. They've got so much jargon in their QSO's that they really stick out."

"Yeah, but you just used the term QSO in a normal conversation. If it's OK to use in normal conversation then why can't I use it on the air?" The Technician said.

"You can. Which illustrates the problem. It's so natural for jargon to creep into people's conversations that it is natural to use these terms on the air. And there's nothing wrong with that. The real problem is in overuse of the jargon and Q signals." I said.

"So how do I know when I am overdoing it?"
The Technician wanted to know.

"Well, that's the hard part. Operating practices are darn near a religious issue for some hams and everyone is entitled to their own opinion as long as they operate within FCC rules. The rule of thumb that I use is to ask myself if the jargon adds anything to the conversation or if it just seems to be inefficient fluff. For example, why ask someone what their QTH is when the word 'location' rolls off the tongue easier? Why say 'QRU' when 'No Traffic' is just as efficient?"

"I think I understand what you are saying." The Technician said. "What about 'QSL', do you ever use that one?"

"QSL is one that I will use on occasion, particularly for handling formal traffic. I find saying "QSL" is more convenient than saying 'I Acknowledge Receipt', so I use it. Even when I am not handling traffic, I will use it to acknowledge receipt of some piece of information. Unfortunately, many people use it as a generic replacement for 'Yes' and respond to any old question with it." My mind flashed back to flood of 1978 when we were passing messages for the Red Cross. My friend Joe had passed a message asking if a particular aid station needed food delivered. Unfortunately, when the operator on the other end acknowledged the message with "QSL", Joe thought that meant "Yes". They never did figure out what to do with the one hundred and thirty-two hamburgers at that spot.

"What about that Alpha, Bravo, Charlie stuff. Is that just more jargon, too?" The Technician asked.

"That Alpha, Bravo, Charlie stuff, I mean, the ITU Phonetic Alphabet is quite useful. Even though FM VHF communication is usually clear and understandable, there are times when phonetics are required to clearly communicate. For example, when operating mobile it's often

difficult to understand the callsign of the other operator, especially if it's a new contact for you. Using standard phonetics gets the information through quite efficiently. The net control stations for the ARES and RACES nets appreciate the use of standard phonetics, too. Can you imagine trying to pick up on all those callsigns if you are not familiar with them?"

"Oh, I know. That's why I've been working on some really good phonetics for my callsign. My call is KA0BZQ, so I think I will use KA0 Big Zebra Quilt." The Technician said.

"I'm glad you mentioned that. Cute phonetics are probably just fine for helping your friends remember your callsign but using them all the time is a bad idea. Pity the poor net control station trying to copy a marginal signal and figuring out what a Big Zebra Quilt is. The whole idea of standard phonetics is that people know what words to expect, making the communication more effective."

"Oh, sure, that makes sense. Is there anything else I need to know about what I say on the repeater?" The Technician asked.

"Well, there is one more thing. Avoid the CB jargon. Phrases like 'ten-four', 'on the side', 'making the trip', and 'come back' will earn you lid status in no time. It's funny that hams object to this lingo when their speech is filled with their own, but that's the way it is. Again, plain English is the way to go, with a few well-chosen Q-signals and standard phonetics."

With that, The Technician thanked me and went bouncing out the door and back to his house. I hope that I didn't criticize him too harshly. I was really just trying to help him out. I resumed my horizontal high level thinking activities but then the wife entered the room, saying something about the house needing a coat of paint.



Colorado 14er Radio Event

August 27, 1995

The 1995 Colorado 14er Radio Event will be held Sunday, August 27th. During the event, a group of amateur radio operators will operate portable from the summits of various Colorado 14000 foot mountains. The operating times will be from 9 AM to 12 Noon local time.

Radio amateurs are encouraged to work as many of the mountaintop stations as possible. However, this is *NOT A CONTEST*, no points are awarded, no scores recorded. A special event QSL card can be obtained by QSLing to the mountaintop station's home QTH (please include a Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope). Most mountaintop stations will be running low power handheld radios. *To reduce QRM, PLEASE DO NOT USE HIGH POWER (more than 50 Watts) and DO NOT CALL FOR 14er STATIONS UNLESS YOU HEAR THEM.*

Adult radio operators with 14er hiking experience who wish to participate should contact Bob, KB0CY at (719) 488-0859 or 18070 Sunburst Drive, Monument CO 80132 or via e-mail: bobw@col.hp.com. To avoid having multiple stations on the same peak, radio amateurs that want to participate must coordinate with KB0CY.

Frequencies

146.43 MHz	Longs Peak
146.46	San Juan Range (Handies, Redcloud, ...)
146.49	Bierstadt, Grays and Torreys
146.55	Coordinating Frequency (Net Control, Pikes Peak)
146.58	Mt. Evans
147.42	Sangre de Cristo Range (Humboldt, ...)
147.45	Misquito Range (Quandary, Lincoln, ...)
147.48	Elk Range and Sawatch Range
147.51	Pikes Peak (QSOs)
147.54	Reserved for Mountaintop Stations Only
52.525	Primary 6M FM frequency
223.5	Primary 222 MHz frequency
446.000	Primary 70 cm frequency
446.025	Alternate 70 cm frequency
446.050	Alternate 70 cm frequency
Other bands/modes: standard calling frequencies	

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Remember the Picnic August 13th!!!

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